

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors

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Four families inducted into Delaware Century Farm Program Governor Jack Markell was featured speaker

Four Delaware farms, each owned by the same family for one hundred years or more, were honored as Century Farms today by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA). The twenty-second Century Farms Awards ceremony was held at the Miller Farm in Frederica at 10:30 AM. Delaware Governor, Jack Markell, was the featured speaker during the ceremony. In his remarks, Governor Markell said, "I am very pleased to be here today in this historical setting to recognize the Boyce family, the Butler family, and the two Warrington families for being a part of Delaware's agricultural heritage for more than 100 years."

"I am not a farmer, Markell continued, "but I recognize the kind of dedication, love of the land, and perseverance it takes to live the agricultural life, an enduring way of life. I salute these families for their living history, their on-going contribution to our state's agricultural heritage, and sincerely hope that their children and grandchildren will carry-on the tradition and farm this land for many years to come."

The DDA Planning Section presents Century Farm awards to landowners who can document that their land has been farmed by the same family for at least 100 years. Farms must include at least 10 acres of the original parcel, or gross over \$10,000 annually from the sale of agricultural products in order to qualify for the program. To date, including today's honorees, Delaware has 110 farms enrolled in the Century Farms Program, which was begun in 1987. Four families were recognized today:



Front, left to right: Mrs. Roger Butler, Mrs. Eben Boyce, Mrs. Everett Warrington, Mrs. Keith Warrington, Governor Jack Markell, Dr. Mary Emily Miller; **Back, left to right:** Ed Kee, Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Roger Butler, Karen Carrow, Mr. Eben Boyce, Mr. Everett Warrington, Mr. Keith Warrington, State Representative William "Bobby" Outten, State Representative Robert Walls.

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Swamp Farm of Baltimore Hundred, Sussex County:

- Mr. and Mrs. Eben Boyce received the Century Farm Award.
- This 47 acre farm has been in the family since 1903
- John Hudson, the great, great grandfather of Mrs. Lisa Boyce purchased the original 100 acre farm from William Layton in 1903 for \$32.50 per acre.
- Joshua Hudson, great grandfather of Mrs. Lisa Boyce purchased the farm for \$3,000.
- William Hudson inherited the farm in 1930, and in 1970, passed it to his three sons, one of which was Delano Hudson, Sr.
- Delano Hudson, Sr. became sole owner in 1974 and the farm passed to his daughter, Lisa Boyce and her husband, Eben Boyce, in 2004.
- There are various structures on this family farm; the “wash house” used as a shed, which was built in 1967, the barn, built in the 1960s, several other sheds, and greenhouses which were built in 2000.
- Currently, this 106-6ear-old family farm produces soybeans and cor. Pigs and beef cows are also raised, and horses are kept on the farm.



Butler Family Farm, Mispillion Hundred, Kent County:



- Mr. and Mrs. Roger Butler received the Century Farm Award.
- The original 100 acre parcel was purchased in 1895 from James Cain by William butler, great-grandfather to the present owner, for \$12 per acre.
- Howard Butler, great-uncle to the present owner obtained the farm in 1913.
- W. Norman Butler, grandfather to the present owner received the farm in 1925.
- Mrs. Mary Butler received the farm from her husband, Norman, in 1965.
- Mrs. Mary Butler’s grandson, Roger Butler, obtained the farm in 1985.
- The Butler family farm over the years has produced rye, lima beans, corn, soybeans, wheat, and barley. Horses, cows, chickens, and hogs were also raised on the far. The farm now produces corn and soybeans.
- The Butler family has lived on these 100 acres for the past 114 years.

Left to right: Karen Carrow, Mrs. Roger Butler, Mr. Roger Butler

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Warrington Family Farm, Northwest Hundred, Sussex County:

- Mr. and Mrs. Keith Warrington received the Century Farm Award.
- Lillian Warrington, great-aunt to the present owner, purchased 55 acres of the farm in 1900, from Herman Millard, for \$32.72 per acre.
- Otis Warrington, great uncle of the present owner, purchased the other 45 acres from William H. White for \$33.33 per acre, in 1903, making the total combined acreage of the original farm to be 100 acres.
- The two parcels of land then passed to the great uncle and aunt and the great-grandmother of Keith Warrington, in 1903 and 1948 respectively..
- In 1907, the 55 acre parcel passed to Samuel Warrington, the present owner's great-great grandfather and the passed to his great-grandfather in 1921.
- The 55 acre parcel came into the possession of Keith Warrington's grandfather, Samuel Warrington, 1977.
- In 1991, the father of the present owner came into possession of both parcels of land with his sisters.
- In 1966, Everett Warrington and his wife, Cathy, became owners of the entire farm comprising the two parcels of land (55 acres and 45 acres), which passed to their son, Keith, and his wife, Janice, in 1988 and 2005.
- Today, this 109-year old family farm produces corn, soybeans, spinach, cucumbers, and wheat. Chickens are raised on the farm; and other livestock were once raised on the farm as well.
- There are currently 5 buildings on the farm, the house built in 1954, a shop built in 1947, and 3 poultry houses built in 1999.



Warrington Family Farm, Northwest Hundred, Sussex County:



- Mr. and Mrs. Everett Warrington received the Century Farm Award.
- Samuel Warrington purchased this 44 acre farm in 1908 from John Vandenburg for 15 cents per acre.
- In 1921, the farm passed to Ernest Warrington, the grandfather of the present owner, and his brothers and sisters.
- Ernest Warrington purchased the farm from his brothers and sisters for \$6,500 in 1921.
- The farm came into the possession of Samuel Warrington in 1862.
- The farm is now owned by the son of Samuel Warrington, Everett Warrington, who with his wife Cathy, received sole ownership in 1996.
- There are three buildings on the farm, the farm house built in 1935, the shed built in 1980, and the barn/shop built in 1985.
- Corn, soybeans, spinach, and cucumbers are raised on this 101-year old family farm. At one time hogs were raised on the farm, and there was an apple orchard as well.

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Left to right: Jack Markell, Governor of Delaware; Dr. Mary Emily Miller; Ed Kee, Delaware Secretary of Agriculture

A special presentation was made to Dr. Mary Emily Miller, on whose farm today's ceremony was held. The Miller farm, on Andrews Lake Road in Frederica, has been in the Miller family for 325 years. It is the oldest century farm in Delaware.



325-year old Miller Farm, Frederica, Delaware

Tributes from the Delaware House of Representatives and the Delaware Senate were presented to this year's Century Farms awardees and Dr. Mary Emily Miller by The Hon. Robert Walls, State Representative, and The Hon. William "Bobby" Outten, State Representative.

Higher resolution pictures are available electronically: anne.fitzgerald@state.de.us

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